REMARKS

Information Disclosure Statement

The applicant files herewith an Information Disclosure Statement and fee under 37 CFR 1.17(p) to disclose U.S. Patent No. 6,473,861 and European Patent Application EP 0911738 A2. The applicant respectfully requests the examiner to consider the references and provide an initialed copy of form PTO-1449 in the next office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

The examiner rejected claims 1-16 under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Sohne et al (US Patent 6,397,333) in view of Spies et al. (US Patent 6,230,269). The applicant respectfully disagrees.

Regarding claim 1, the examiner asserts that Sohne discloses a secure disk drive comprising an authenticator for verifying the authenticity of an encrypted message received from a client in response to a client drive key, wherein the client drive key is based on a client drive ID and a secure drive key internal to the disk drive. The applicant respectfully disagrees. Sohne does not disclose to generate a client drive key based on a client drive ID and a secure drive key. The examiner concedes this in the office action by stating "Sohne et al. does not explicitly teach authenticating using a drive ID to identify the host, or generating client drive key based on client drive ID and secure drive key". Therefore, through the examiner's own admission the above assertion should be withdrawn.

The examiner further asserts that Spies discloses to authenticate a received message using a client drive key based on a client drive ID and a secure drive key. The examiner relies on the public/private key generation disclosed by Spies (col. 6, lines 19-26), as well as the teaching of a server that generates key source material based on the client information (col. 8, lines 55-58). This reliance on Spies is misplaced. Using the

well known public/private key generation to implement secure communication is not the same or even similar to generating a client drive key based on a client drive ID and a secure drive key. Neither the public or private key is generated in this manner. Further, although Spies generates key source material S based on client information, the key source material S is not used to authenticate an encrypted message received from a client disk drive as recited in the claim. The key source material S is transmitted back to the client where it is used to generate a public/private key pair to facilitate public/private key communication (see Abstract). The rejection should be withdrawn.

The examiner also asserts that Spies teaches to generate a message authentication code in response to an ID and password. However, the claim recites to generate the message authentication code in response to an internal drive key, wherein the internal drive key is based on an internal drive ID and a secure drive key. The rejection should be withdrawn.

The rejection of the remaining claims should be withdrawn for the reasons set forth above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, the rejections under 35 USC §103 should be withdrawn. In particular, nothing in the relied upon prior art discloses or suggests to implement a secure communication process between disk drives by authenticating the transmitter of an encrypted message in response to a client drive key based on a client drive ID and a secure drive key. Further, nothing in the relied upon prior art discloses or suggests to generate a message authentication code sent as a reply, wherein the message authentication code is generated using a secure drive key and an internal drive ID. The examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned over the telephone in order to resolve any remaining issues that may prevent the immediate allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 4/27/05 By: _____

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on:

4/27/05 Howard H. Sheerin
(Date) (Print Name)

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(Signature)